

and well-being of the men, women, and children of Bloomfield, a beautiful community located in the heart of my district. He has begun a tradition of excellence in the Bloomfield Police Department—a tradition which, under his continued direction, will continue long into the future. It is only fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

During a period in our history when hometown security has become such a critical issue, Chief McNiff has worked diligently to ensure the continued efficiency and effectiveness of the Bloomfield Police Department, while fostering its close relationship with the community. He has initiated programs designed to increase the capacity of his police officers to act as first responders, and balanced these programs with community-based initiatives geared toward maintaining a high quality of life for the citizens of Bloomfield.

Among the many innovative and successful programs that Chief McNiff has instated are the D.A.R.E. program, the Anti-Crime Squad, the Bloomfield/Newark Border Patrol, and the Community Policing Unit. Under his leadership, the Bloomfield Police Department has collectively worked with the Auto Theft Task Force and the Essex County Prosecutor's Narcotics Unit. Largely as a result of Chief McNiff's extraordinary vision and guidance, the Bloomfield Police Department now ranks among the best in Essex County, New Jersey.

The services rendered to the people of Bloomfield by John McNiff have been widely recognized. Chief McNiff has received commendations from organizations representing all levels of local, State, and Federal law enforcement, and has been publicly honored for his service both by the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly. Most recently, John McNiff was the recipient of the distinguished John I. Crecco Foundation's "Public Safety Award" and was recognized by the Ancient Order of the Hibernians for his work.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing individuals who have devoted themselves to serving the special needs of the people in their community. The integrity, dedication, and skilled leadership that Chief John McNiff has brought to the Township of Bloomfield is beyond compare.

I ask that you join our colleagues, the Essex County PBA, and me in gratefully recognizing the invaluable services that Chief John McNiff has provided to the men and women of Bloomfield, New Jersey.

WENTWORTH MILITARY ACADEMY MEMORIAL SERVICE

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 12, 2003, a memorial service was held on the campus of Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, MO. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Jim Ahrens presided. This service paid tribute to the many Wentworth Alumni who served in the military and paid the ultimate sacrifice. I commend the remarks of Lieutenant Colonel Ahrens to this body.

TEXT FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE

Invocation: Let us pray
Almighty and most merciful God. Look with favor upon us gathered here this morning—in thy presence—on this sacred ground, and inspire our hearts and minds as we lovingly celebrate the deeds of Wentworth Cadets, old boys, whose sacrifices—blood, sweat, and tears—made in the name of freedom and human dignity—shall stand forever as the foundation stones of our great nation. Bless us now, O God, that our thoughts, desires and deeds throughout this memorial service may be inspired by You according to Your holy name. Amen.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Friends: We gather here on this historic ground—this sacred ground—Cadet Corps, old boys and their families, Wentworth staff, faculty and friends—we gather here near the Memorial Chapel, its entrance guarded by the Mooney Memorial—just down this tree shaded hill from the doughboy and the Hall of Honor—to remember, to honor and to return thanks for Wentworth cadets who made the supreme sacrifice. We gather to lovingly remember Wentworth old boys who gave their lives in the service of their country. Today we are particularly mindful of the vets we single them out now for honor because, like other Wentworth old boys, they fought and served and some died courageously. It is now their time—their turn—for special recognition.

How thankful we are for their dedication, their loyalty, perseverance—for their patriotism. How thankful we are for their sacrifices made in the line of duty—in times of terrible trial and tribulation—crisis—peril—times of grievous suffering—times of war.

Alumni from Wentworth have served in eight conflicts and have sacrificed their lives in six of them.

41 served in the Spanish American war and two died.

3 are known to have served in the Philippine Insurrection and one perished.

At least 552 served in WW I and fourteen died, including one faculty member.

At least 813 served in WW II and 87 died, including another faculty member.

213 served in Korea and nine paid with their lives.

We don't know exactly how many served in the Vietnam conflict, but we know that eleven made the supreme sacrifice.

Approximately 30 served in the first Gulf War that we know of and apparently all returned at the end of the conflict. Many are serving, as we speak, in the second Gulf War, which includes the War on Terror.

These men gave their lives for all of us in this country. Because of the closeness of our alumni it seems as if they became a part of all of our lives and we all feel their loss. What we have to day is a heritage that is made all the more rich by what they gave for us.

Today we honor all who have given their lives. There is no doubt that their example has served as an inspiration for all of us to do what we can do to end conflict, but we all know equally well that we could be called upon to make the supreme sacrifice for our country and fellow humankind. We must also remember those Wentworth faculty, staff, cadets and acquaintances who are no longer with us as well as those who have died in the past year.

Memorial prayer

Let us pray. Almighty God, bless now our memories of Wentworth cadets—and their loved ones who waited patiently behind—bless our memories of old boys who made the supreme sacrifice—old boys who march no more in our ranks—who answer no more reveille roll call—who stand no more on the Quadrangle for sunset retreat.

Bless, oh God, our remembrance of them that the spirit of their heroism—their dreams of a better life in a world at peace their sacrifices for us—may inspire us here on this Wentworth campus, and wherever we go, to live together in brotherly love—according to your golden rule. May their memory live on—heartening and inspiring—teaching us the meaning of heroism, patriotism—brotherly love. And, O God, inspire us so we may never take for granted or forget our Wentworth heroes. May we be inspired in the days and weeks to come to walk a little slower by this Huey helicopter and the doughboy—to walk a little slower by the Mooney memorial, and in our hearts do an "eyes right and render a smart hand salute—as we pay our respects to our fallen comrades—Wentworth cadets who made the supreme sacrifice. Amen

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 567 I intended to vote "nay."

TRIBUTE TO 177TH FIGHTER WING OF THE NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 177th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard. Recently, the 177th received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) for exceptionally meritorious service from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2001. The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, established by the Department of Defense in 1954, recognizes units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.

During this two year period, the 177th accomplished its mission with a high degree of war readiness and combat capability. The Wing deployed highly trained, combat ready personnel in support of Aerospace Expeditionary Force 9. They were one of the first units to have its aircraft generated with live missiles and ready to fight shortly after the attacks on the World Trade Center. In addition to these accomplishments, the unit and its members have been recognized for its outstanding environmental stewardship, recruiting efforts, and community support.

The 177th is the home to 17 single seat F-16C, Fighting Falcon, aircraft and has been located at the Atlantic City International Airport in Egg Harbor Township since 1958. However, the 177th traces its roots back to September 1917 as the 119th Aero Squadron. The 119th Aero Squadron, an active duty training squadron during World War One, was demobilized in May 1919. In 1930, the 119th Observation Squadron was given federal recognition as part of the 44th Infantry Division, New Jersey National Guard, 119th Fighter Squadron at